

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9075

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV GR

SUBJ: PAPANDREOU SAYS PASOK WILL SEEK A NEW CONSTITUTION

REF ATHENS 4239

1. FULLER ACCOUNT AND SUBSEQUENT PRESS PLAY OF PAPANDREOU'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF JUNE 9 DISCLOSE RATHER SHARPER ATTACK ON CARAMANLIS AND THE NEW CONSTITUTION THAN THE INITIAL REPORTS HAD SUGGESTED (PARA 5 OF REFTEL). UNLIKE CU/NF LEADER MAVROS, WHO CALLED FOR REVISIONS IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION (REFTEL), PASOK LEADER PAPANDREOU CALLED FOR A POLITICAL STRUGGLE LEADING TO A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO DRAFT AN ENTIRELY NEW CONSTITUTION.

2. PAPANDREOU'S MAIN BLAST AT THE CONSTITUTION IS THAT IT PROMULGATES A POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH HE JUDGES NEITHER PARLIAMENTARY NOR PRESIDENTIAL. HE CLAIMED THAT THE REGIME THAT HAS NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED IN ESSENCE "REPEATS THE EXPERIMENT OF THE CAESARIAN REPUBLIC OF THE PAPADOPOULOS CONSTITUTION OF 1972". HE ADDED THAT HE EXPECTS CARAMANLIS TO REMAIN AS PRIME MINISTER FOR TWO YEARS AND THEN BECOME PRESIDENT.

3. AN "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE" INDICATED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD
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NOT COMMENT ON THE STATEMENTS MADE BY PAPANDREOU. THE SOURCE

SAID HIS ARGUMENTS WERE SO GROUNDLESS AS TO LEAD TO THE
CONCLUSION THAT "HE HAD NOT READ THE TEXT OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND, FURTHERMORE, IF HE WANTED AN ANSWER HE COULD HAVE COME
TO PARLIAMENT, WHERE AN ANSWER WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO HIM."
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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